

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

e 1. (Previously Presented) A reagent ^{composition} ~~system~~ for flow cytometric analysis of a sample of fresh human blood, comprising:

a. a lipoprotein in contact with leukocytes of said sample of fresh human blood for minimizing lysis of said leukocytes;

b. an agent for lysing erythrocytes from said sample of fresh blood for permitting flow cytometric analysis of said leukocytes; and

c. a preservative selected from the group consisting of diazolidinyl urea (DU), imidazolidinyl urea (IDU), an oxazolidine and mixtures thereof.

2. - 8. (Canceled)

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9. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 further comprising an effective amount of a physiologically compatible salt.

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10. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said lipoprotein is a high density lipoprotein.

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11. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said agent for lysing is saponin.

12. - 34. Canceled

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e 35. (Currently Amended) The ^{composition} ~~system~~ of claim 51 further comprising a sample preparation instrument for preparing a whole blood sample for flow cytometric analysis.

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e 36. (Currently Amended) The ^{composition} ~~system~~ of claim 51 further comprising an antibody for binding with a surface antigen of at least one of said leukocytes.

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e 37. (Previously Presented) The ~~system~~^{composition 6} of claim 36 further comprising a fluorochrome associated with said antibody.

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e 38. (Previously Presented) The ~~system~~^{composition 6} of claim 36 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

9
e 39. (Currently Amended) A reagent composition for cytometric analysis of a ~~sample~~^{sample} of fresh human blood, comprising:

- a. a high density lipoprotein in contact with leukocytes of said sample of fresh human blood for minimizing lysis of said leukocytes;
- b. about 0.1 to about 2 parts percent by weight of an agent for lysing erythrocytes from a sample of fresh blood for permitting cytometric analysis of said leukocytes; and
- c. upto about 5 parts percent by weight of a preservative selected from the group consisting of diazolidinyl urea (DU), imidazolidinyl urea (IDU), an oxazolidine and mixtures thereof.

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D 40. (Currently Amended) A reagent composition for cytometric analysis of a sample of fresh human blood, comprising:

- a. about 0.01 to about 5 parts percent by weight of a high density lipoprotein in contact with leukocytes of said sample of fresh human blood for minimizing lysis of said leukocytes;
- b. about 0.1 to about 2 parts percent by weight of an agent for lysing erythrocytes from a sample of fresh blood for permitting cytometric analysis of said leukocytes; and
- c. upto about 5 parts percent by weight of diazolidinyl urea (DU).

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41. (Currently Amended) A reagent composition for preparing leukocytes for sytometric analysis, comprising:

- a. about 0.01 to about 5 parts percent by weight of a high density lipoprotein;
- b. about 0.1 to about 2 parts percent by weight of an agent for lysing erythrocytes from a sample of fresh blood for permitting cytometric analysis of said leukocytes;

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c. upto about 5 ~~parts~~ percent by weight of diazolidinyl urea (DU); and

d. about 0.1 to about 2 ~~parts~~ percent by weight of a halide salt.

42. Canceled